



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 52

Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government Records, 1951: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Massachusetts. General Court. Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 52

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid originally prepared by an unknown processor; updated by Abigail Cramer, May, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the activities of the Special Commission in its efforts to examine the structure of the government of the Commonwealth and make suggestions for reorganization.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes reports, testimonies, public hearing transcripts, and handwritten commentary which document discussions of the existing structure of the Massachusetts state government and its possible restructuring that were held by various members of the Commission.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government was created by Chapter 75 of the Resolves of 1949 to examine the structure of the state government, eliminate duplication of efforts and overlapping of functions, improve operational efficiency, eliminate red tape, and introduce sound management practices. The Commission aimed to reorganize the operating and regulatory functions of the State government so that there would be not more than 20 departments (rather than 76 agencies). Commission members were: Chester A. Dolan, Jr. (chairman), Representative Fred C. Harrington (vice-chairman), Senator George J. Evans, Senator John E. Powers, Senator John W. Coddair, Jr., Senator Ralph Lerche, Representative Earle S. Bagley, Representative John M. Shea, Representative Howard Whitmore, Jr., William H. Bixby, William H. Hearn, John E. Meagher, Jr., Edmond F. Wright, Cornelius F. Haley, and Thomas H. Eliot (executive director). The Commission produced five reports. The fifth report, concerning state agencies and functions in the field of public welfare, was published in June, 1951. This report also included proposed legislation, including "An Act Relative to the Organization, Etc., of the Department of Public Welfare" and "An Act Relative to the Care, Treatment, and Training of Juvenile Delinquents."

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in their original order.

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Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Report on Public Welfare	June, 1951
1	2	Public Hearing re: Dept. of Public Welfare	April, 1951
1	3	Testimony: P.A. Tomkins, Commissioner of Public Welfare	undated
1	4	Commentary on Eliot Commission Report	July, 1951